

Note on four Rock Engravings found in the Transvaal.

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Through the courtesy of J. A. Nesor, Esq., M.L.A., of Klerksdorp, the Museum came into possession of four rock-engravings found in the Klerksdorp District, Transvaal.

These engravings represent the Eland, Gensbuck, the Cape Ant-Eater and the Guinea Fowl, and are sculptured in one of our hardest rocks, viz., Crystalline Diabase.

They are very good reproductions of the animals they represent, and one is struck by the perfectness with which most of the details have been sculptured out; and although now they have weathered away almost to the same colour as the rest of the surface, they must have once, when just finished, been most conspicuous objects, presenting a beautiful slatish blue picture on the original weathered reddish grey surface of the rock.

They have been lying in the veld, imbedded to a certain height in the soil, which is evident from the marks still left on the sides of the stones, showing that they formed a part of a boulder outcrop in the veld.

These outcrops occur in many places in the Transvaal, even within a few miles of Pretoria, not far distant from an old Bushman Cave; in the Transvaal the sculptures are, however, up to the present, only known from along the Vaal River, from Vereeniging downwards and from the Klerksdorp District.

None of these four engravings are worn away much, and in all of them the present colour of the designs attained by weathering is the same, viz., a fawnish grey colour.

This, and the still sharply defined, deep pointing, would seem to indicate that they have been made at about the same time, and their perfect workmanship to their being made if not by one man, by people with equal artistic talent.

The artist seems to have started by outlining the animal he wanted to represent by means of lines, produced by closely set punchings or pointings. This can plainly be seen from the picture of the Cape Ant-Eater (*Orycteropus capensis*) and the Guinea Fowl.



Plate LX.

Bushman Stone, Gamsbuck.



Bushman Stone, Eland.



Plate XI,

Bushman Stone, Antbear.



Plate XII.

Bushman Stone, Guinea Fowl.

In the case of the Ant-Eater, only the head, part of the neck, legs, tail and the underpart of the body are filled with rougher, deeper and more closely set pointings.

Each of these pointings has been produced by a single blow of the artist's primitive instrument, as is evident from the triangular shape of these pointings forming the margin of that part of the body which has already been sculptured out.

Plate 10 is the excellent reproduction of the Eland (*Oreas canna*), measuring 0·36 m. \times 0·24 m.

Plate 9 is the Gemsbuck (*Oryx gazella*), measuring 0·34 m. \times 0·23 m. Underneath its head is a head of another Gemsbuck, but upside down.

Plate 11 is the Cape Ant-Eater (*Orycteropus capensis*), measuring 0·26 m. \times 0·15 m. On the photograph on the outside margin of the sculptured portion of its body the triangular pointings are distinctly visible.

Plate 12 is a Guinea Fowl (*Numida coronata*), measuring 0·19 m. \times 0·14 m. Perring in his article "On Rock Engravings of Animals and the Human Figure, etc," referring to this photograph, writes "Or more probably the large Bustard or Gom Paw (*Otis kori*)," but the attitude, the curved back, short neck and the small conical process on the head of the bird shows undoubtedly that we have here a reproduction of the Guinea Fowl.